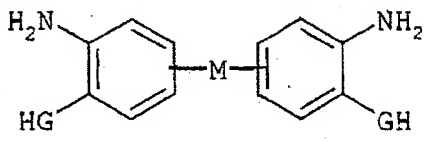
We claim:

1. A bis-o-aminophenol having a formula I

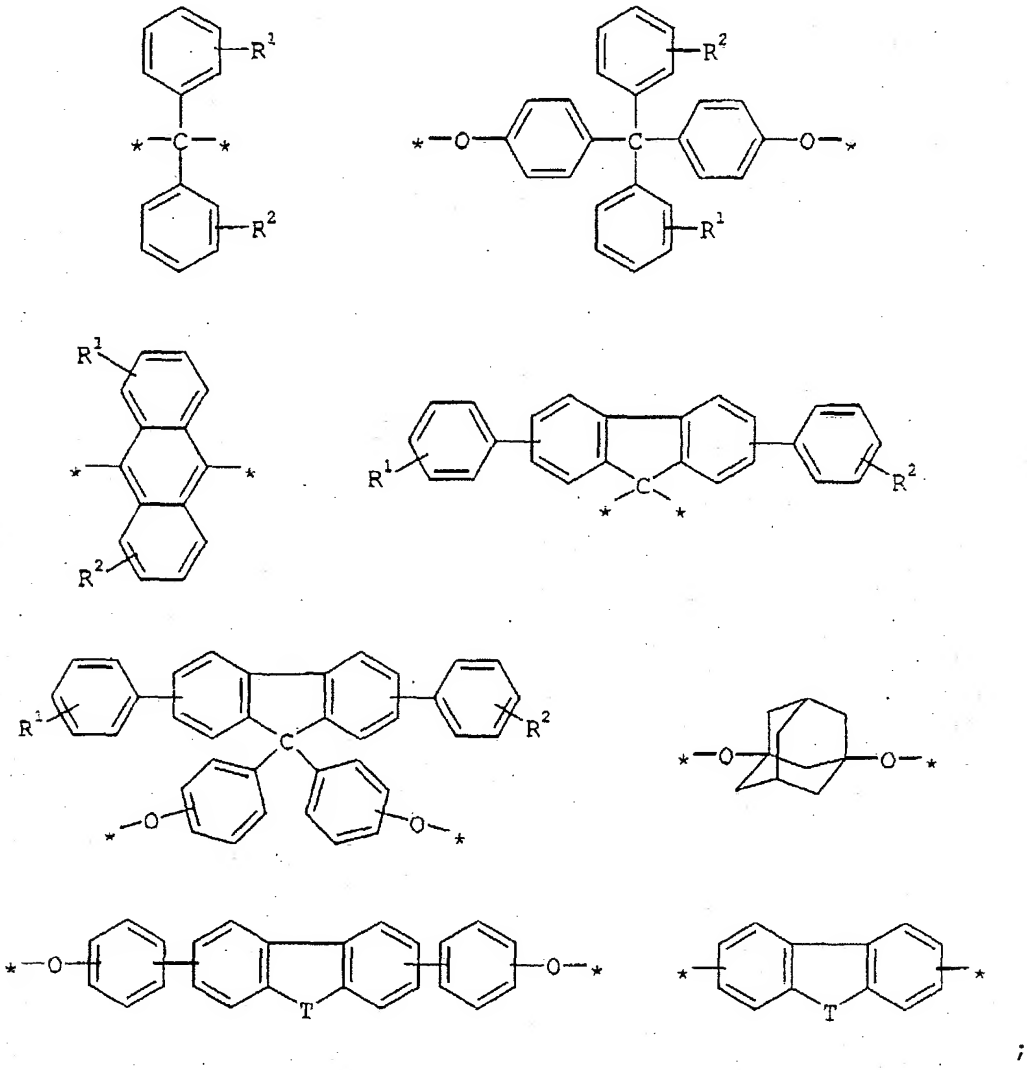


Formula I

wherein

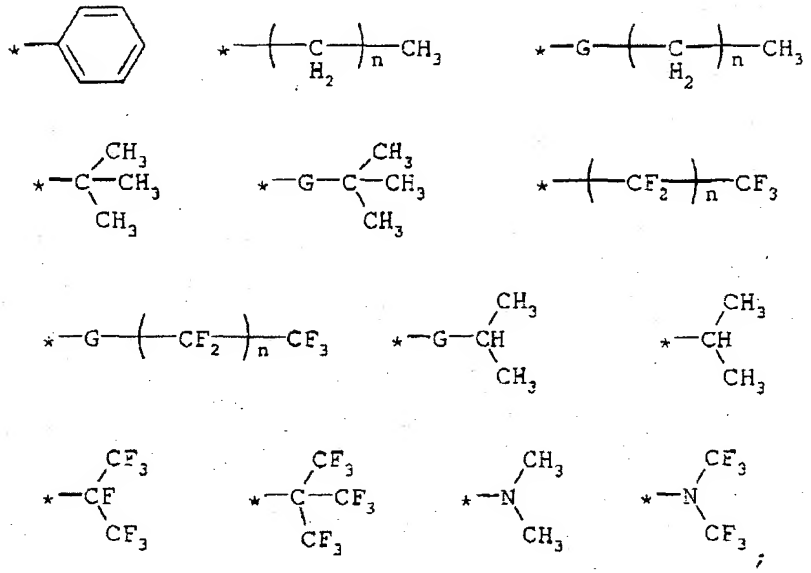
G is a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen and sulfur;

M is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

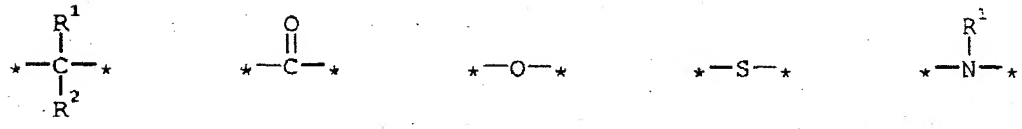


;

R^1, R^2, in each case independently, are substituents selected from the group consisting of:



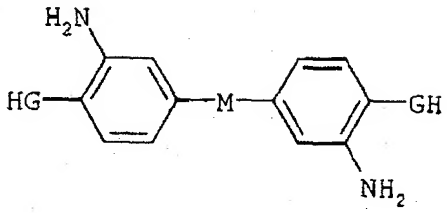
T is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:



; and

n is an integer from 0 to 5.

2. A bis-o-aminophenol having a formula II

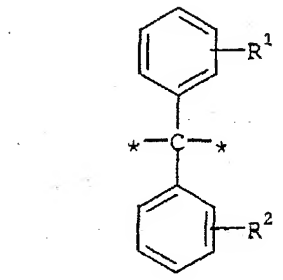


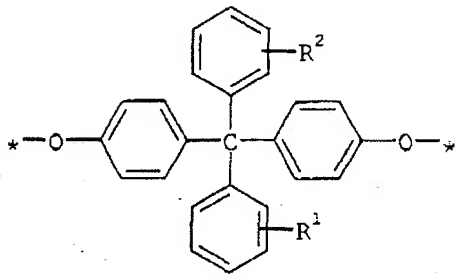
Formula II

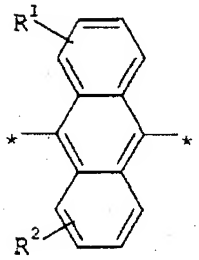
wherein

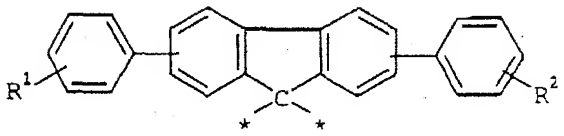
G is a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen and sulfur;

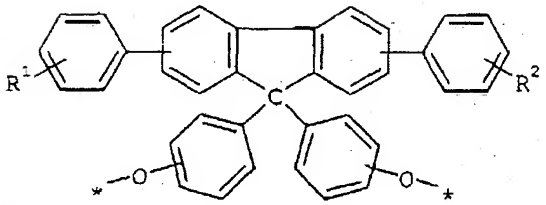
M is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

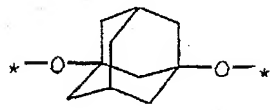


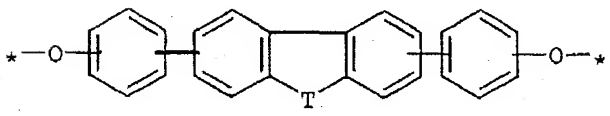


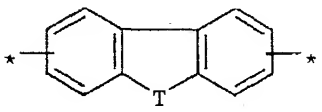






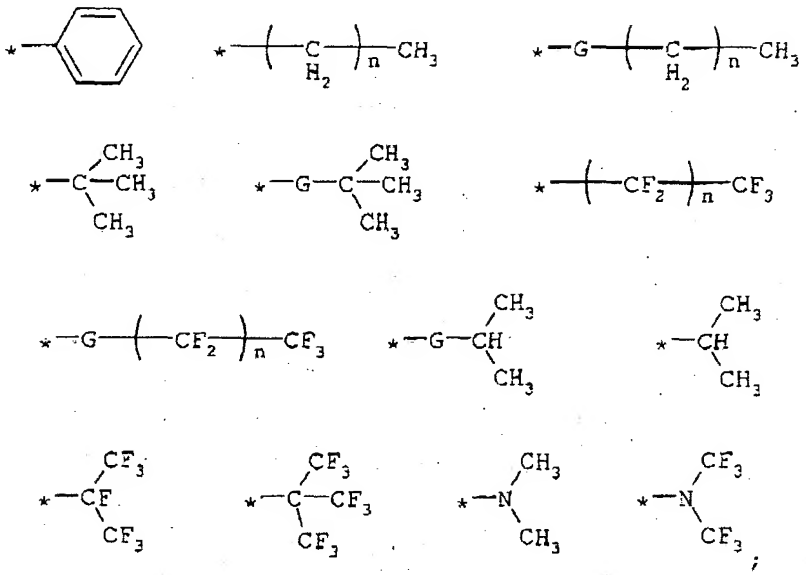




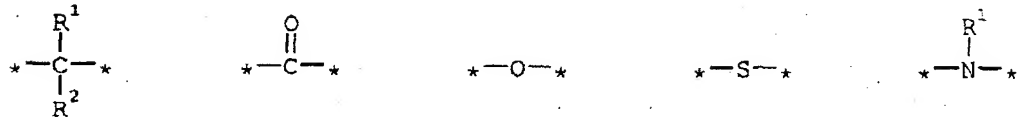


;

R^1, R^2, in each case independently, are substituents selected from the group consisting of:



T is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:



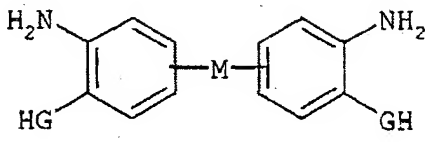
; and

n is an integer from 0 to 5.

3. The bis-o-aminophenol according to claim 1, wherein G is an oxygen atom.

4. The bis-o-aminophenol according to claim 2, wherein G is an oxygen atom.

5. A process for preparing a bis-o-aminophenol having a formula I

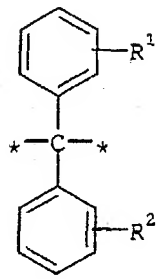


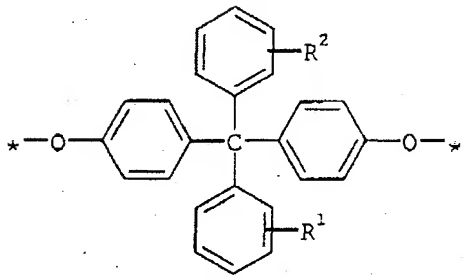
Formula I

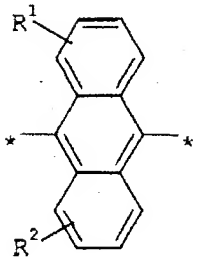
wherein

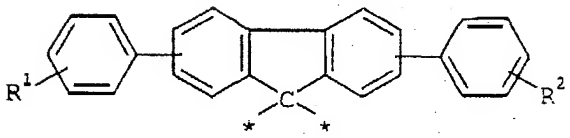
G is a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen and sulfur;

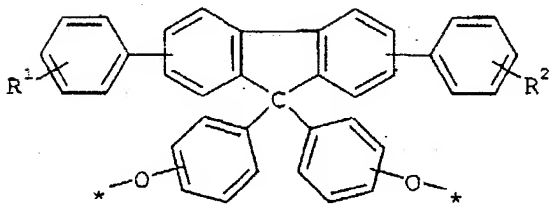
M is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

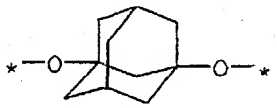


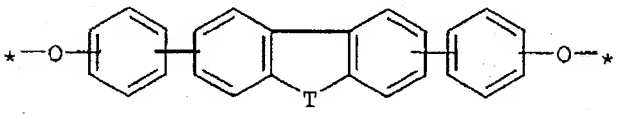


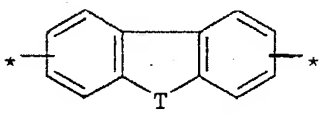




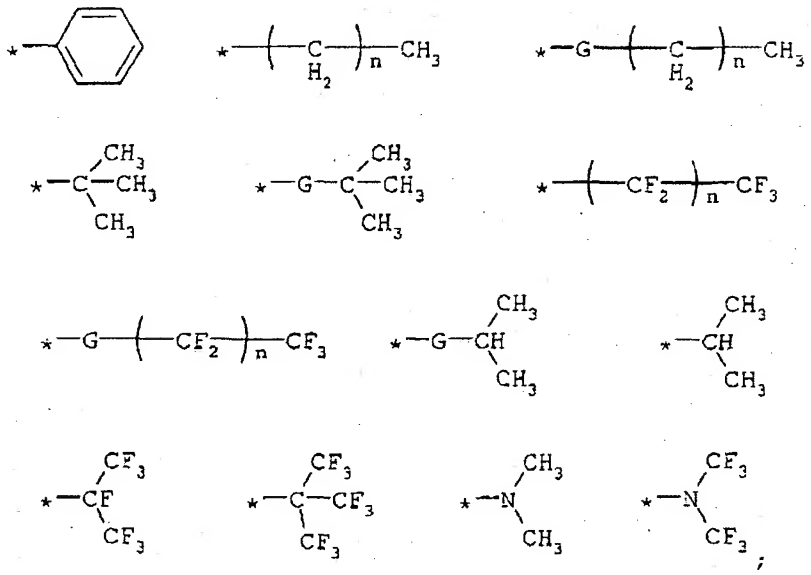




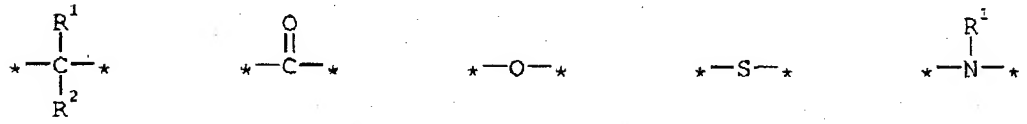




R^1, R^2, in each case independently, are substituents selected from the group consisting of:



T is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

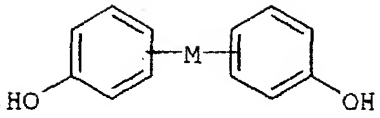


; and

n is an integer from 0 to 5;

the process which comprises:

nitrosating a diol of the formula III



Formula III

with a nitrosating agent to yield a nitroso compound; and

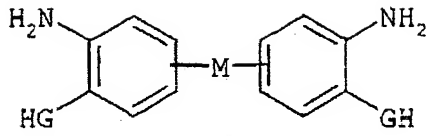
reducing the nitroso compound to the bis-o-aminophenol of the formula I.

6. The process according to claim 5, wherein the nitroso compound is reduced with hydrogen gas with a catalyst.

7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the catalyst is palladium on active carbon.

8. The process according to claim 5, wherein the nitrosating agent is selected from the group consisting of isoamyl nitrite, alkyl nitrite, and a mixture of sodium nitrite and concentrated sulfuric acid.

9. A process for preparing a bis-o-aminophenol having a formula I

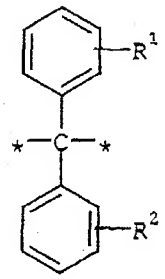


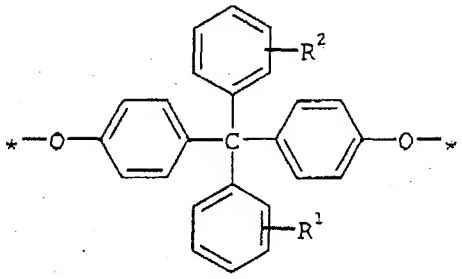
Formula I

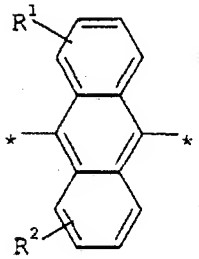
wherein

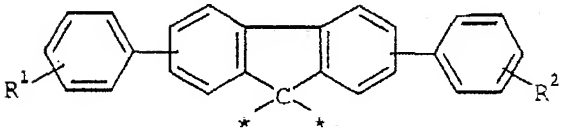
G is a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen and sulfur;

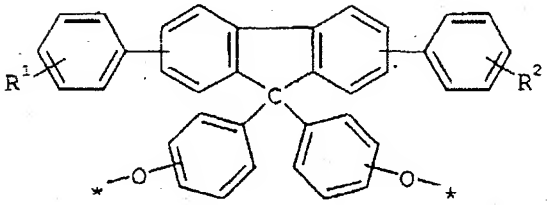
M is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

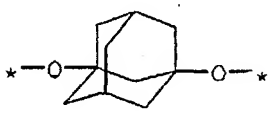


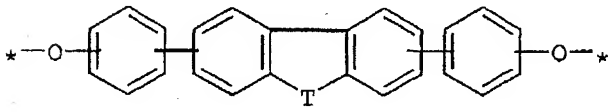


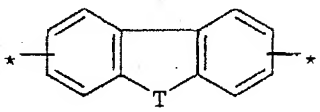






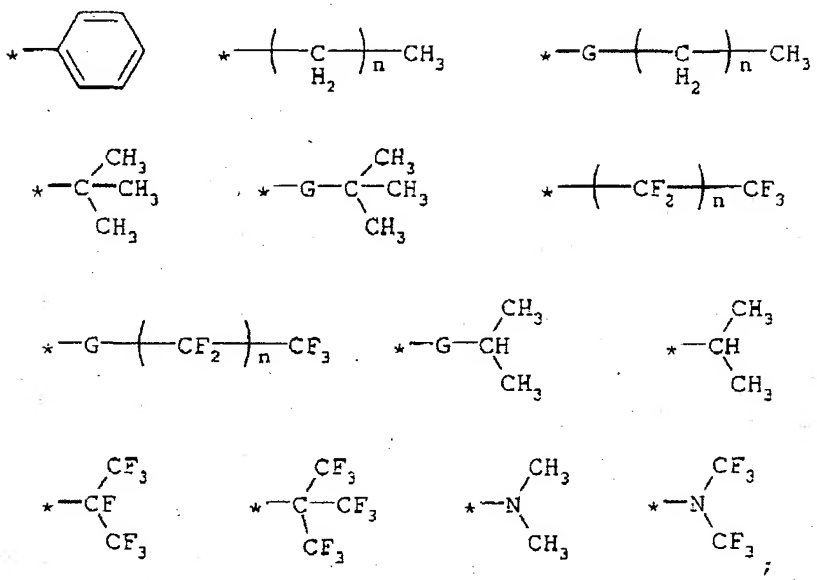




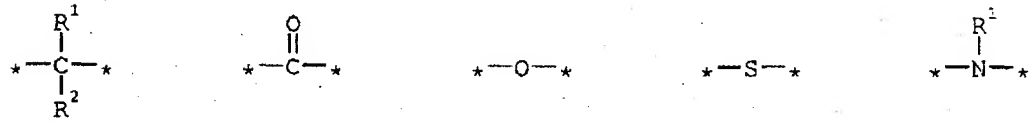


;

R^1, R^2, in each case independently, are substituents selected from the group consisting of:



T is a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

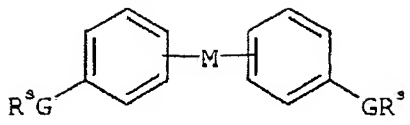


; and

n is an integer from 0 to 5;

the process which comprises:

nitrating a diol having a formula IV



Formula IV

a nitrating agent to yield a nitro compound, R^s being a protective group; and

reducing the nitro compound to yield the bis-o-aminophenol of the formula I.

10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the protective group R^s is capable of undergoing reductive elimination.

11. The process according to claim 9, wherein the protective group R^s is a benzyl group.